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Communicable Diseases—Transportation of Bodies of Those Dead of. (Act, Chap. 8, Jan. 30, 1912.)

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That an act entitled "An act regulating the transportation of bodies dead of contagious or infectious diseases," approved March 2, 1892, as amended by an act which became a law February 17, 1900, be amended and reenacted so as to read as follows:

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That the transportation of bodies of persons who have died of smallpox or bubonic plague is absolutely prohibited, unless by permission of the State board of health, and the local boards of health where death occurs and where burial is desired.

SEC. 2. Bodies of persons who have died of Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever, diphtheria (membranous croup), scarlet fever (scarlatina, scarlet rash), erysipelas, glanders, anthrax, or leprosy, shall not be accepted for transportation unless prepared for shipment by being thoroughly disinfected by (a) arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid; (b) disinfection and stopping of all orifices with absorbent cotton, and (c) washing the body with disinfectant, all of which must be done by an embalmer holding a certificate as such, issued by the State board of embalmers of Virginia.

After being disinfected as above, such body shall be enveloped in a layer of dry cotton, not less than 1 inch thick, completely wrapped in a sheet securely fastened, and incased in an air-tight zinc, tin, copper, or lead-lined coffin or iron casket, all joints and seams hermetically sealed, and all inclosed in a strong, tight wooden box. Or the body being prepared for shipment by disinfecting and wrapping as above, may be placed in a strong coffin or casket, and said coffin or casket incased in an air-tight zinc, copper, or tin-lined box, all joints and seams hermetically soldered.

For interstate transportation under this section only embalmers holding a license issued or approved by the State or provincial board of health, or other State or provincial authority provided for by law, after examination, shall be recognized as competent to prepare such bodies for shipment.

The city, town, and county health officers of this State are hereby empowered to regulate the transportation by private conveyance in their respective jurisdictions the bodies of persons dead of diseases mentioned in sections 1 and 2 of this act.

SEC. 3. The bodies of those dead of typhoid fever, puerperal fever, tuberculosis, or measles may be received for transportation when prepared for shipment by arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid, washing the exterior of the body with the same, and enveloping the entire body with a layer of cotton not less than 1 inch thick, and all wrapped in a sheet securely fastened, and incased in an air-tight metallie coffin or casket, or air-tight metal-lined box: *Provided*, That this shall apply only to bodies which can reach their destination within 30 hours from the time of death. This shall not apply to bodies addressed to the anatomical board of Virginia; such may be received for transportation when prepared for shipment in such manner as the Virginia State Board of Health may direct. In all other cases such bodies shall be prepared by a licensed embalmer holding a certificate, as provided for in section 2. When prepared by a licensed embalmer, as defined and directed in section 2, the air-tight sealing and bandaging in cotton may be dispensed with: *And provided further*, That bodies dead of diseases named in section 3, disinfected and prepared as required in this section (3), may be received for shipment to points within the State of Virginia which can be reached within 12 hours from time of death without requiring the coffin or casket to be metal-lined or hermetically sealed.

SEC. 4. The bodies of those dead from any cause not stated in sections 1, 2, and 3, may be received for transportation when incased in a sound coffin or casket and inclosed in a strong outside wooden box, provided they can reach their destination within 30 hours from the time of death. If the body can not reach its destination

within 30 hours from the time of death, it must be prepared for shipment by arterial and cavity injection with an approved disinfecting fluid, washing the exterior of the body with the same and enveloping the entire body with a layer of dry cotton not less than 1 inch thick, and all wrapped in a sheet securely fastened and incased in an air-tight metallic coffin or casket or an air-tight metal-lined box. But when the body has been prepared for shipment by being thoroughly disinfected by a licensed embalmer, as defined and directed in section 2, the air-tight sealing and bandaging with cotton may be dispensed with.

SEC. 5. In the shipment of bodies dead from any disease named in section 2, such body must not be accompanied by persons or articles which have been exposed to the infection of the disease, unless certified by the health officer as having been properly disinfected.

And before selling tickets agents must carefully examine the transit permit and note the name of the passenger in charge, and of any others proposing to accompany the body, and see that all necessary precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of disease. The transit permit in such cases shall specifically state who is authorized by the health authorities to accompany the remains. In all cases where bodies are forwarded under section 2, notice must be sent by telegraph by the shipping embalmer to the health officer, or where there is no health officer to other competent authority at destination, advising the date and train on which the body may be expected.

SEC. 6. Every dead body must be accompanied by a person in charge, who must be provided with a passage ticket and also present a full first-class ticket marked "corpse" for the transportation of the body, and a transit permit, printed on yellow paper, showing physician's or coroner's certificate, name of deceased, date and hour of death, age, place of death, cause of death, and all other items of the standard certificate of death recommended by the American Public Health Association and adopted by the United States Census Bureau, as far as obtainable, including health officer's permit for removal, whether communicable or noncommunicable, the point to which the body is to be shipped, and when death is caused by any disease specified in section 2, the names of those authorized by the health authorities to accompany the body, and undertaker's certificate as to how the body has been prepared.

The transit permit must be made in duplicate, and the signature of physician or coroner, health officer, and undertaker must be on both the original and duplicate copies. The undertaker's certificate and paster of the original shall be detached from the transit permit and securely fastened on the end of the coffin box. All coffin boxes must be provided with at least four handles. The physician's certificate and transit permit shall be handed to the passenger in charge of the corpse. The whole duplicate copy shall be sent to the official in charge of the baggage department of the initial line, and by him to the secretary of the board of health of this State.

The station baggage agent shall enter on blank, following the funeral director's certificate, over his signature, description of corpse, ticket, exact route, and via what junction points the ticket reads. Said certificates and transit permits shall be furnished in blank by the transportation companies where no local board of health exists.

SEC. 7. When bodies are shipped by express, the transit permit, as described in section 6, must also be made out in duplicate. The undertaker's certificate of the original shall be detached from the the transit permit and securely fastened on the coffin box. The physician's or coroner's certificate and transit permit shall be attached to and accompany the express way bill covering the remains and be delivered with the body at the point of destination to the person to whom it is consigned. The whole duplicate copy shall be sent by the forwarding express agent to the secretary of the board of health of this State.

Every disinterred body, dead from any disease or cause, shall be treated as infectious or dangerous to the public health, and shall not be accepted for transportation unless said removal has been approved by the State or provincial health authorities having

jurisdiction where such body is disinterred, and the consent of the health authorities of the locality to which the corpse is consigned has been first obtained; and all such disinterred remains, or the coffin or casket containing the same, must be wrapped in a woolen blanket thoroughly saturated with a one one-hundredth solution of corrosive sublimate, and inclosed in a hermetically soldered zinc, tin, or copper lined box. But bodies deposited in receiving vaults shall not be treated and considered the same as buried bodies, when originally prepared by a licensed embalmer, as defined in section 2, and as directed in section 2 or 3 (according to the nature of the disease causing death), provided shipment takes place within 30 days from the time of death. The shipment of bodies prepared in the manner herein directed, by licensed embalmers, from receiving vaults, may be made within 30 days from time of death without having to obtain permission from the health authorities of the locality to which the body is consigned. After 30 days the casket or coffin containing said body must be inclosed in a hermetically soldered box.

SEC. 9. The following form of certificate and transit permit in duplicate must be used.

SEC. 10. Any person violating any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and punished by a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$25, or imprisoned not exceeding 10 days for the first offense, and fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$100, or imprisoned for not less than 10 nor more than 60 days for each offense additional.

SEC. 11. All acts or parts of acts conflicting with this act are hereby repealed.